



Agenda

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014

8:00-8:30 am	Registration	Lobby
8:30-10:00 am	Welcome & Inspirational Speaker	Diamond & Emerald
10:00-10:30 am	Partner Reports (IDOA, AISWCD, NRCS)	Diamond & Emerald
10:30-11:00 am	Regional Photos/Break	Diamond & Emerald
11:00-12:00 pm	Long Range Planning	Onyx & Opal
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch	Diamond & Emerald
1:00-1:45 pm	Partner Panel (IDNR, IEPA, FWS, FSA)	Diamond & Emerald
1:45-2:30 pm	Transect Survey (Excel Program / Inventory)	Diamond & Emerald
2:45-3:45 pm	Breakout Sessions	
	* Planning for Cover Crops A-Z	Onyx
	* Publisher / One Note	Jade
	* Soil Health Kits for Educators & Demos	Crystal
3:45-4:45 pm	Regional Spotlights & Employee Networking Q&A	Diamond & Emerald
8:00 pm-12:00 am	Hospitality Room - Music Trivia Night (Games, Chair Massage, etc.)	Onyx

Reminders:

- ♦ Toys for Tots, Eyeglass, and Phone Book drop offs are located in the hallway.
- ♦ Region 5 is having a Bake Sale in the lobby.
- ♦ ISWCDEA dues are payable at the registration table or see Vicki Heath.
- ♦ Nationwide Financial has an informational table in the hall.
- ♦ Soil and Water Conservation Society has an information table in the hall.
- ♦ Linda Byrd will be providing chair massages in the Hospitality Room for a small fee of \$1 per minute.
- ♦ Bring Your Own Refreshments to the Hospitality Room.
- ♦ Bring a Door Prize

~ Have Fun!

Session Descriptions & Bios

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014

Inspirational Speaker, Mia Smith, IL Wesleyan University

Mia Smith is the head women's basketball coach at Illinois Wesleyan University and led her team to the NCAA Division III championship during the 2011-2012 season. She has been the CCIW's "Coach of the Year" four times and the Region seven winner of the Russell Athletic/WBCA Regional Coach of the Year honor three times. She was also the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Division III "Coach of the Year" in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2012. Mia is also a 3 year survivor and fighter of Breast Cancer.

Long Range Planning, Mike Rahe, IDOA and Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller (Kane-DuPage SWCD)

This session will cover how to create a long range plan, what IDOA is looking for, and examples of plans recently completed.

Lunch: Sub Station; Pasta Vinaigrette Salad, Vegetable Tray with Dip, Homemade Pre-Sliced Deli Subs, Ham/Salami/Turkey/Roast Beef, Swiss/Provolone Cheese, Tomatoes, Shredded Lettuce, Black Olives, Onions, Pepper-

Transect Survey (Excel Program / Inventory): Alan Gulso, IDOA

This session will provide an update of the Transect Survey including an overview of the new Excel program that will be used to record data and produce county level summary reports. Information will also be provided on the Survey's inventory of structural practices that is being planned for 2015.

Planning for Cover Crops A-Z: Mike Plummer

This session will focus on the decision tool for planting in different regions and yield advantages of cover crops. This session is eligible for 1 CPESC credit.

Publisher / OneNote: Renee Weitekamp (Champaign SWCD)

This session will introduce you to OneNote, what it is and how it can be useful in your day to day office activities. This session will also cover how to use Publisher.

"Soil Health Kits & Demos for Educators": Sharon Hartzold, Area Resource Conservationist -NRCS

The 68th UN General Assembly has declared 2015 the International Year of Soils. Are you ready to play an active role in spreading the word about "Soil"? This session will guide you in putting together a "Soil Health Kit" for use in the classroom or in the field. We'll demonstrate a few of the "tests" and discuss what each reveals about soil health. *(Sharon and her husband Joe live and farm in McLean County. They have two daughters in college - one at Ohio State and one at Oklahoma State. Sharon's career with USDA-NRCS spans 27 years. She started in New York as a Soil Conservationist, served as a District Conservationist in Iowa and finally settled in Illinois as an Area Resource Conservationist for the northwest counties. Her main responsibilities include providing conservation planning and agronomic assistance to NRCS Field Office staff. Sharon is a Certified Crop Advisor and is an NRCS Area point of contact for Soil Health.)*

Hospitality Room (Games, Chair Massage, etc.): Linda Byrd, Massage Therapist

Winter Training
2014



From the Roots Up

Agenda Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014

8:00—8:30 am	Registration & Hotel Checkout	Lobby
8:30—9:30 am	RCPP	Emerald & Jade
9:30—10:30 am	Breakout Sessions	
	* “So You Think Your Soil Is Healthy?” IDOA RCPP Project Status/Soil Health Guiding Principles	Onyx
	* Accounting Basics	Jade
	* Education	Ruby
9:30—11:30 am	CPESC Training	Crystal
10:30—10:45 am	Break	
10:45—11:15 am	Breakout Sessions	
	* Drainage Water Management	Jade
	* FOIA	Room TBA
	* Website Development: Comparing Web- site Builders, Mandatory Content, and Website Marketing Ideas	Onyx
11:15—11:45 am	Envirothon	Opal & Ruby
11:45—2:30 pm	Lunch	Diamond & Emerald
	ISWCDEA Annual Meeting	
	Officer Election / Induction of Officers	
	Service Awards Presentation	

*Have a safe trip home and a
wonderful Holiday Season!*

-ISWCDEA

Session Descriptions & Bios

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014

RCPP: Shannon Allen, NRCS

Learn how RCPP can assist you in getting conservation on the ground. *(Shannon Allan is the Initiatives Coordinator at the NRCS State Office. Prior to NRCS he worked 13 years for the Macon County SWCD. He is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) and currently serves as the State of Illinois Representative for CPESC.)*

“So You Think Your Soil Is Healthy?” / RCPP Project Status /Soil Health Guiding Principles: Mike Rahe, IDOA and Roger Windhorn, NRCS

Update on the status of IDOA’s RCPP proposals and opportunities for District involvement. Key points to emphasize when talking with farmers about soil health and cover crops. This session is eligible for 1 CPESC credit.

Accounting Basics: Tom Pfeffer, CPA

This session will cover: The whys and wherefores of accounting; what is the state looking for; Controls to protect the District; Importance of reconciliations; Payroll liabilities; State unemployment; Necessities of minutes & how detailed they need to be; Benefits of employee contracts matching fiscal year; Chart of accounts; and Comptroller’s report. *(Thomas R Pfeffer, CPA is a partner with Gorenz and Associates, Ltd., a public accounting firm located in Peoria, Illinois. The firm audits nearly 100 governmental and not-for-profit entities located throughout Illinois, including 8-10 SWCD’s. Tom has been involved with SWCD audits since 1999.)*

Education: Debbie Ruff (Livingston SWCD)

This session will focus on educational program ideas that can be quickly planned when asked “last minute” and also ideas when time is not an issue. *(Debbie Ruff has served as the Education/Ag Literacy Coordinator for Livingston County’s Soil & Water Conservation District and Farm Bureau for the past 23 years. She provides programs and materials for Pre-K to adult, as well as facilitates educator workshops. Debbie developed a mobile classroom, named EARTH EXPRESS, to visit all the county’s 3rd & 4th grades. This “textbook on wheels” provides environmental and agricultural lessons through the use of narratives, graphics and hands-on activities. She provides “walk n talks” for local nature centers and serves on several state planning and curriculum writing committees. Debbie is also an Illinois Master Naturalist.)*

CPESC Training: Ed Weskerna (McHenry-Lake SWCD), Megan Andrews (Kendall SWCD) and Jim Miles, IL EPA

This session will cover the Illinois SWCD & EPA Inspection Program, and is a continuation from the May workshop focusing on the updated process and working documents for the program. The focus will be on SWPP review, conducting inspections, completing the revised forms, invoicing and other related aspects of the program. Earn up to 2 credit hours.

Drainage Water Management: Sarah Anderson, PE, NRCS Assistant State Conservation Engineer-Illinois

This session will focus on why drainage water management should be incorporated, the types of control structures used, where and how often to place them on an agricultural landscape, basic information on cost, and Christian County’s large Drainage Water Management Project. *(Sarah Anderson is the Assistant State Conservation Engineer for NRCS in Illinois. She helps the State Conservation Engineer in implementing all aspects of the NRCS engineering program in our state.)*

FOIA: Christopher Boggs, Assistant Attorney General (Office of the Illinois Attorney General)

This session will be “A Guide to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act.” *(Assistant Attorney General Christopher R. Boggs has been with the Office of the Illinois Attorney General since September 2012. He serves in the Public Access Bureau, assisting the Public Access Counselor in resolving FOIA/OMA violations and providing educational training to state and local Illinois government entities.)*

District Websites: Comparing Website Builders, Mandatory Content, and Website Marketing Ideas: Sally Ferguson (Rock Island SWCD)

This session will feature websites made with GoDaddy’s Website Builder, WordPress.org, Webnode, Tripod, and Webs.com. The panelists will share information on their websites, covering their pros, their cons, ease of use, learning curves, cost, how to update the website, and more. The session will also touch on information required on your website for FOIA and OMA purposes. We will fill any remaining time by sharing how districts use their websites to market their programs and sales.

Envirothon: Sondra Baker (Dewitt SWCD)

This session will focus on the Envirothon program, State competition dates and details.

Lunch: Choice of 2 Entrees; Chicken Breast with Basil Cream Sauce & Roast Beef, au Jus, Tossed Salad with choice of dressings, Greens Beans with Onions and Bacon, Tarragon Herbed Potatoes, Hot Apple/Cherry/Peach Cobbler, Rolls, Butter, Coffee, Iced Tea.